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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 10 August 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 10 August 1995 from His Excellency Mr. Zoran Lilić, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 81 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Allow me to express, on behalf of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, our strongest resentment and disappointment over the Security Council's reluctance to condemn unequivocally and resolutely Croatia's aggression against the Republic of Serb Krajina, along with the monstrous crimes committed by the Croatian army against Serb civilians, prisoners of war and columns of refugees. Permit me to recall further that Croatia's aggression is at the same time an assault on the United Nations and a blow to the negotiating process, which was effectively initiated under the aegis of your Envoy, Co-Chairman T. Stoltenberg, at Geneva on the very eve of this aggression.

I also wish to recall that the United Nations representatives who took part in the charting of the 1992 Vance Plan gave assurances that the United Nations would guarantee physical safety and peace throughout Krajina's territory and would resist any attempt by Croatia to jeopardize it.

The Security Council's incomprehensible avoidance to carry out its responsibilities so far under Articles 39, 41 and 42 of the Charter of the United Nations, has enabled Croatia, by employing ruthless means, to execute the larger part of its plan for conquest while enhancing its belief that the results of its aggression will be tacitly accepted and sanctioned by the international community. How is it possible that the United Nations can just watch indifferently and thus facilitate the implementation of a policy by which injustice breeds justice?

With its position heretofore regarding Croatia's aggressive behaviour, the United Nations has regrettably reasserted the policy and practice of applying double standards, which have been used by the international community - under the dominant influence of certain Security Council members - since the onset of the Yugoslav crisis, and invariably and as a rule to the detriment of Serbs. Some important factors in the world have strongly warned, while criticizing the Security Council for its fence-sitting attitude vis-à-vis Croatia's aggression, that this could very much enhance the impression regarding the United Nations anti-Serb orientation.

I wish in particular to bring to your attention the fact that Croatia's prime goal in its drive of conquest against Krajina was to get rid of the presence of Serbs who have been living in the areas concerned for centuries, and only then to place Krajina's territory under its control. It is only in this way that we can account for the massive and unselective shelling and rocketing of Knin and all other towns preceding Croatia's entry into Krajina and during its conquest. The result of this deliberately planned campaign is an ethnic cleansing which, judging by the number of the expelled persons concerned, represents the most massive ethnic cleansing in the course of the Yugoslav crisis so far and, by its effects, the virtual exodus of Krajina's entire population.

Highly appreciating your principled stand and the tireless efforts you have been making to promote peace, dialogue and the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis by political means, as well as your compassion as a scholar and statesman, I

hereby appeal to you to use all of your personal good offices in the Security Council so as to persuade the Council to adopt a resolution, as a matter of urgency and pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, whereby it will:

1. Condemn most strongly Croatia's aggression against Krajina, the crimes committed, ethnic cleansing and massive devastation;

2. Call for an immediate cessation of the aggression and for the withdrawal of the Croatian army from the United Nations protected territory;

3. Guarantee protection to the Serb populations in Krajina which are still encircled by the Croatian army - in Topusko, Petrova Gora, Glina and in other towns - so as to prevent further crimes against civilians;

4. Take concrete punitive measures against Croatia for having committed aggression, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and human rights violations, in conformity with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Zoran LILIĆ
President